

[19 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(g) MIG-21 Bis aircraft are being upgraded with better avionics and weapon systems. Strict quality control is being exercised in maintenance of MIG-21 aircraft. The IAF is, taking measures to enhance quality of training to improve skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness. Further, the recommendations of the Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) are being implemented and the progress is reviewed, regularly.

Statement

Year-wise details of MIG aircraft

Year	MIG Series Category-I accidents	MIG aircraft Lost	Number of pilots killed in MIG accidents	Number of civilians killed	Financial Loss (Rs.)
1998-1999	16*	18	06	06	156.06 Cr.
1999-2000	17*	18	09	02	154.79 Cr.
2000-2001	17*	18	10	Nil	47.60 Cr. (12 aircrafts C.O.I. finalized till date)

*Each star indicates mid-air collision accident in which 2 aircrafts were involved.

Purchase of Hawks Aircraft

3675. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government propose to enter into a deal to purchase BAC systems U.K. produced Hawks 100 for IAF Advance Jet Trainer which is 1970s vintage technology when modern variants are available in Europe and USA and that the deal is estimated to cost over a crore of rupee more; and

(b) if so, the reasons for opting for the Hawks 100 aircrafts having vintage technology ignoring the availability of modern variants?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) After due evaluation, spread over several years of various trainer aircraft, available in the world market, M/s British Aerospace was shortlisted for purchase of Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer. Negotiations have not yet been concluded. Certain airframe designs, especially of the trainer aircraft variety, do not get outdated for considerable periods, besides lending themselves to periodic upgrades for retaining effectiveness.

Review of Defence deals

3676. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Defence deals to be reviewed" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated 30th March, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the recent Tehelka exposé has forced Government to re-examine the signing of several defence deals and has affected the modernisation system; and

(c) if so, the details of the defence projects which have been affected due to Tehelka exposé and the steps taken by Government to ensure timely modernisation of defence projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration for re-examination of any of the defence acquisitions. Modernisation of defence is a continuous process and any review of defence projects, would only be undertaken without seriously affecting the defence preparedness of the country.